Kuwait and Saudi Arabia in lifting the ban on the import of mutton and buffalo meat from India; and

(b) the loss in foreign exchange suffered till December, 1985 as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) The Kuwait authorities have been requested to send a delegation to see the measures taken in India for export of quality meat and withdraw the ban on import of mutton and buffalo meat from India. In case of Saudi Arabia the ban is on import of buffalo meat only. It is proposed to take up the issue during the next meeting of the Indo-Saudi Joint Commission.

(b) Exports of buffalo meat to these countries have registered a decline. However, it is not possible to quantify the loss.

Kandla Free Trade Zone

938. SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 384 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th November, 1985 and state the progress made in the matter of setting up of a Central Authority to govern the Kandla Free Trade Zone and also other Export Processing Zones in the Country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): For developing an optimal model for the Authority for export processing zones in India, experience of some of the zones in other countries has been ascertained and consultations held with agencies involved in the development of the zones in India. In the light of experience gained, various options have been evaluated for the organisation and structure of the Authority to be examined by concerned Ministries and Departments.

Trade agreement with USSR

939. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has recently been signed between India and the USSR to boost up trade; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): A Trade Agreement allowing the rupee payment system between India and the Soviet Union to continue from 1st January, 1986 to 31st December, 1990 was signed on 23rd December, 1985. The salient features of the Trade Agreement which would help in the promotion of bilateral trade are given below:—

(1) All payments of commercial and non-commercial nature between India and the USSR will be effected in non-convertible Indian rupees. The trade will be conducted in such a way as to get balanced over a period of time;

(2) The Trade Agreement will be renewed automatically for subsequent periods of five years at a time, unless either party gives a written notice at least six months in advance to the other of its intenion to modify the Agreement;

(3) Both the Government have agreed to accord each other most-favoured-nation treatment with respect to imports and exports, custom duties and other taxes and charges connected with imports and exports;

(4) Both Governments shall facilitate each other's participation in trade fairs and exhibitions held in either country;

(5) With a view to further promoting and diversifying trade and economic cooperation, the two Governments have agreed to encourage

the strengthening of business contacts between the trading organisations of the two countries;

(6) Both Governments shall consult each other for exploration of new avenues in the field of industrial cooperation as well as for the utilisation of existing ones; and

(7) Both Governments have agreed to assist each other in the development of cooperation between their industrial and commercial enterprises for the purpose of pooling together their resources and technical knowhow for jointly cultivating the third country markets and for meeting the mutual needs arising from industrial development in third countries.

Release of funds for the development of tourism in the Southern States

940. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount released so far by the Central Government to different Southern States for the development of tourism in these States during the current financial year;

(b) whether the Central Government have obtained any progress reports from these States; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) The Department does not allocate funds State-wise/Region-wise; it rather provides central assistance on the request of the State Governments based on the merits of the projects, inter-se priorities and availability of funds with the Department. The total amount released during the current financial year so far, for each Southern States is as follows—

(Rs. lakhs)

1. Andhra Pradesh	4.75
2. Karnataka	9.00
3. Kerala	47.56
4. Tamil Nadu	27.67

(b) and (c) The State Governments forward to the Department the periodical progress reports on the projects sanctioned. The Ministry called for Southern States Tourism Ministers' Officials' Meeting at Mamallapuram in December, 1985 and reviewed the progress of various projects.

Non-plan expenditure

941. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the non-Plan expenditure of the Central Government has exceeded the original estimate during the Sixth Plan period;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what is the total estimates on this account during the Seventh Plan period;

(d) whether a Study Group has been set-up under the Chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary, to review all plan schemes and non-Plan expenditure; and

(e) if so, whether the Group has since submitted its report and if so, what are its recommendations and what action has been taken thereon by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Inflationary pres-